

EXPLOSION KILLS MINERS

Twenty-four Bodies Found and Some Still Missing.

EXPLOSION CAUSED BY GAS

Mine is One of the Largest Independent Workings in the Northern Part of the State.

An explosion occurred in the shaft of the Century Coal Company at Century, W. Va., a small mining town 50 miles south of Fairmont on the Belington & Buckhannon branch of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad.

The explosion took place at 4:20 p. m. Thursday and 24 hours after the bodies of 24 of the victims had been recovered. It is believed that the death list will not reach more than 30. It is possible that three or four bodies remain in the mine.

The Century mine, which is owned by Shaw Brothers, well-known coal men of Baltimore, is one of the largest independent operations in Northern West Virginia. More than 250 men are employed daily in the shaft, and had the explosion been an hour earlier the loss of life would have been appalling. As it was only a few stragglers remained in the shaft, the main body of the miners having quit work for the day.

The giant fans which furnished air for the shaft were partially wrecked by the explosion, but was repaired immediately, and within an hour Superintendent James Ward had a relief gang in the mine. The first trip out brought 10 men—five dead and five badly burned. They were found in the main heading near the bottom of the shaft. The living could give no details of the explosion, saying they were on their way to the surface when the explosion took place behind them.

A second expedition immediately went down and explored the main heading, which was found to be uninjured, except that the brattices were blown out. Four more bodies were found in this heading and 20 injured men were making their way toward the bottom of the shaft. They were brought to the surface by the rescuers.

Relief trains bearing physicians were hurried from Parkersburg and Buckhannon, and the doctors immediately took care of the wounded in the office building, which was transformed into a temporary hospital.

Two additional bodies were recovered from the Century mine running the death list to 6. All others have been accounted for.

The funerals of 20 of the dead miners were held Sunday and all were interred in the Tygarts Junction graveyard.

The miners' union is aiding the bereaved families, many of whom are without clothing and food. Officials of the coal company are contributing liberally to the wives and families. Of the 30 injured all will recover.

JUSTICE DEUEL RESIGNS

Sends Resignation as Member of the Bar Association.

Judge Joseph M. Deuel of special sessions court has resigned as a member of the Bar association of New York. The resignation will be acted on at the meeting of the organization on April 6.

This announcement, coming on the eve of the presentation to the appellate division of the supreme court of a petition signed by District Attorney William Travers Jerome, Edward W. Shepard and James W. Osborne, asking for the judge's removal from the bench, caused much astonishment.

Rogers Will Answer.

H. H. Rogers has notified Attorney General Hadley, of Missouri, that he will appear and answer the questions which he refused to reply to when last upon the witness stand in the case brought by the State of Missouri against certain oil companies asserted to be owned or controlled by the Standard Oil Company.

Wants Two More Battleships.

Secretary Bonaparte appeared before the House Committee on Naval Affairs to advocate an appropriation for two 16,000-ton battleships, and in case Congress does not see fit to provide for two such ships, he urged the construction of one 19,400-ton battleship. Two scout cruisers were recommended to cost \$3,000,000. He advocated the building of four destroyers at a cost of \$3,000,000; two submarines costing \$500,000; one gunboat costing \$600,000 and two river gunboats at a cost of \$200,000. The secretary's estimate for construction aggregated \$22,000,000. Of this sum the chief item is \$15,000,000 for the two battleships recommended.

Steel Market.

The "Iron Trade Review" will say: Increased fear of the strike of coal miners is reflected in greater hesitancy in the iron and steel market, especially in pig iron, although furnace interests are not alarmed, believing that the expected buying movement will set in at an early date. Large quantities of coal are being stored in anticipation of the strike.

Former Professor Sent to Pen.

At Tampa, Fla., Judge Bordenman sentenced George H. Stephens, formerly a professor in Lafayette college, at Easton, Pa., to a term of two years in the penitentiary for counterfeiting. The term will date from the incarceration of Stephens eight months ago. Stephens wept when led away by the officers.

Miners in Pittsburgh district were notified of a 20-cent weekly per capita tax to aid strike fund.

FIVE KILLED IN WRECKS

Two Freights Ditched and Third Collides With Passenger Train.

A train on the Lehigh Valley railroad was wrecked at Honesoye Falls, N. Y. The engineer, William Garfney, of Rochester, was instantly killed, and the fireman, Edward Brusky, of Honesoye Falls, was taken from the wreck, but died while being taken to a hospital.

A double-header freight train on the Grand Trunk railroad collided head-on a few miles from Sarnia, Ontario, with an eastbound passenger train. Fireman Crapo and Fireman N. Hugnos of the two freight trains were killed.

Illinois Central passenger train No. 1 derailed into a freight train one mile west of Duncombe, Ia., causing the death of Fireman Walter E. Cutting of the passenger train, who jumped and broke his neck. Engineer O. M. Brown of the passenger train, was thrown against a wire fence when the engine was ditched and was slightly bruised. The passengers escaped injury.

TWO BANKERS CONVICTED

Charged With Misapplying Funds—One Was Candidate for Judge.

George P. Brock, former cashier of the Doylestown (Pa.) National Bank, was convicted in the United States Court of misapplying funds. Pending application for a new trial Brock was permitted to enter bail \$10,000.

Brock was indicted on a charge of embezzling, abstracting and misapplying about \$84,000 of the bank funds. Judge Metherson, in his charge, directed the jury to disregard the first two counts. The Government charged that Brock secured the money by overdraft without the consent of the directors.

Henry Lear, President of the bank at the time of its failure, who is a brother-in-law of Brock, was convicted of a similar offense and his case is pending on an appeal. Lear at the time of his arrest was the Republican candidate for judge of Bucks county, but withdrew.

MAN RIDES ON CAR TRUCK

Uncomfortable Position Selected by a Traveler Without Money.

As Big Four train No. 35 pulled into Marion, O., bystanders at the union station were dumbfounded upon seeing a man lodged on the trucks of one of the rear cars, completely covered with snow. The man was pulled from his uncomfortable position, but he was so stiff from cold that he could not stand alone and it was with difficulty he was revived.

He explained that he wanted to get to Cleveland, where he could get work. He said he had boarded the train at Indianapolis, but having no money the conductor put him off before getting out of the yards. Then he resorted to the desperate means of riding on the trucks.

SHIP CANAL FAVORED

Senate Committee Adds Amendment to Protect Niagra Falls.

The Senate Committee on Commerce ordered a favorable report on the Lake Erie and Ohio river ship canal bill. The committee agreed to all the amendments made by the subcommittee.

It also added one at the request of Senator Platt of New York forbidding the canal company creating any work that will lower the discharge of water over Niagara Falls. The Ohio river is several hundred feet higher than the lake. The summit of the canal is 300 feet above the lake. Inasmuch as no practicable way has yet been found to make water run up hill the amendment does not appear to be of use. But Senator Platt was anxious about it and the committee obliged him.

The Russian council of the empire has granted a loan of \$15,000,000 to landlords who suffered from the Agrarian troubles. The loan is repayable in 40 years, but will not bear interest until 1910.

CUBAN LEADER DEAD

General Julio Sanguily Gained Title in 1868.

Gen. Julio Sanguily died at his home in Havana. He gained his military title in the Cuban insurrection of 1868, rising from the ranks. He also took part in the last Cuban revolution, but in 1897, he was captured by the Spaniards who tried and sentenced him to be imprisoned for life. Sanguily, however, claimed American citizenship, and through the intervention of the Government at Washington, he was released.

REVIVAL KILLS PASTOR

After Seeing 4,000 Conversions He Is Taken South to Die.

Pneumonia, following a nervous collapse as a result of strain and excitement during protracted revival services at the First Baptist Church of Paducah, Ky., caused the death of the pastor, Rev. John S. Cheek, at Waco, Tex. The revival, which brought about 1,000 conversions, ended last Sunday.

Snow Bound for 12 Days.

After being snowbound for 12 days on the lofty summit of Cumbres Pass, at the crest of the San Juan range, 50 miles from the nearest town, a Denver & Rio Grande train containing 50 passengers arrived in Alamosa. The train left Durango March 10, and became stalled that night. Snow continued falling day after day until it lay on the level higher than the smokestack of the locomotive. Owing to the high altitude, several passengers became sick.

SEVEN KILLED BY TRAIN

Wagon Was Struck by Engine at Railway Crossing.

ALL MEMBERS OF ONE FAMILY

Victims Represented Three Generations—They Were Driving to a Family Reunion When Struck.

Seven persons, representing three generations of one family, were killed on the Philadelphia and Reading railway at Hass Crossing, one mile south of Sunbury, Pa. The dead: G. W. Neidig, 63 years old; Clarence Neidig, 41 years old; Silas Neidig, 36 years old, son of the first named; Mrs. Clarence Neidig, 30 years old; three children of Clarence Neidig, Mary, four years old; Blanche, six years old, and Gilbert, two years old.

There was to have been a family reunion at the home of G. W. Neidig, at Augustaville, and the latter had driven to the house of his sons to convey the party to Augustaville. The wagon containing the seven persons had crossed the Pennsylvania railroad tracks and had just reached the Reading tracks when an express train, northbound from Shamokin, dashed into the vehicle. The occupants of the wagon were thrown or dragged many feet by the locomotive and their bodies were terribly mangled.

FAMINE IN JAPAN

Thousands Are on Verge of Starvation—Appeals from Formosa.

The misery and suffering in the famine region have been slightly relieved by the prompt and liberal aid from foreign sources and by the abatement of the rigors of winter. The local authorities are trying to provide work for the able-bodied, but thousands are still on the verge of starvation. Many parents are parting with their children, sending them to the already crowded Okayama orphanage. The severity of the suffering undergone by the children is clearly depicted in the faces of those who are compelled to part from their homes, where the food consists of flour, mixed with straw and weeds. The mixture is beaten fine, forming a pastry which contains only 25 percent actual food value.

The liberal contributions from American sympathizers are already effective and the relief, in the form of food and clothing is commanding the heartiest appreciation.

Another appeal for aid is presented by the sufferers from the recent earthquake in South Formosa, thousands of whom are homeless. The local government is busy providing food, caring for the injured and removing corpses, several hundreds of which are buried under debris.

TO PRESERVE NIAGARA

Report of American Committee Concurred in by Canadians.

The American members of the International Waterways commission have made a report on the preservation of Niagara Falls which is concurred in by the Canadian members, except that they ask more time to determine what legislation should be enacted by their government. Summed up, the report proposes to limit to industrial establishments and canals already in existence the diversion of 28,500 cubic feet of water per second on the American side of the Falls and 25,000 cubic feet on the Canadian side. "The object of such legislation," says the report, "would be to put a stop to the further depletion of the falls and at the same time inflict the least possible injury on the important interests now dependent on this water power."

Sibley Anti-Convict Labor Bill.

Representative Sibley, J. C., of Pennsylvania, has introduced a bill in the House preventing officers or agents of the government from buying goods made by convict labor.

KILLED WHILE PREACHING

Pastor of Mormon Church Struck by Lightning.

While preaching to his congregation at Carson, Ia., Rev. J. B. Lentz, pastor of a Latter Day Saints church, was struck by lightning, which caused his death within an hour. The bolt descended during a hard thunderstorm, and was communicated to the preacher by a chandelier hanging directly above his head.

The shock threw him to the floor in an unconscious state, while many persons in the audience were stunned. After nearly everyone had fled from the building, Lentz was carried out, but failed to regain consciousness. The church took fire, but the flames were soon extinguished.

Tramps Are Tried in Church.

In rural New England style, court was held in the basement of the historic Congregational church of Woodbridge, Conn., where William Murray and George Mitchell were tried for burglary. The men are tramps who committed burglary at the farm house of William Tompkins. They were held for the criminal court.

House Passes Hazing Measure.

Hazing at the Annapolis Naval academy was dealt with by the House in the passage of a Senate bill with a House substitute. The bill repeals that portion of existing law which makes it compulsory to dismiss midshipmen guilty of hazing in any degree, and substitutes punishment according to the nature of the offense. Cruel and brutal hazing may be punished by dismissal. Previous to the hazing bill consideration, 265 pension bills were passed.

OFFICERS ON DUTY OUTSIDE

Chief of Robbers. With Key to Vault's Combination, Swings Back Heavy Doors.

The Credit Mutual, one of the largest banks in Moscow, was mysteriously robbed by masked men at dusk, the robbers securing \$32,500. It was an extremely daring job. The facts already developed raise the question that the robbery was committed by or under the direction of someone at present or previously employed in the institution.

The bank is situated in Illaka street, in the heart of the city. The last of the clerks had just departed, leaving an inside guard of three men, while outside were a policeman and the house porter. The street was crowded with people hurrying homeward. According to the story of the guards, in the twinkling of an eye they were confronted with revolvers in the hands of 20 masked men, who had entered silently by the main door, which had been locked when the office force left.

The guards were quickly bound and gagged and thrown into a dark corner. The chief of the robbers, who directed the operations of his associates, went to the burglar-proof safe, and, with a few whirrs of the knob, threw the combination of the lock, the heavy doors swung open and the treasure of the bank was revealed.

The plunder, consisting of gold, silver and notes, was speedily thrust into sacks. When a team haul of the money had been made, not a knock being left, the robbers departed as silently as they came, making their exit through the main entrance and leaving no trace behind them.

Twenty minutes after the robbery one of the guards succeeded in freeing himself and gave the alarm. The dumfounded policeman and house porter who had been standing in front of the bank throughout claimed they had seen no one enter or leave. It is the general impression that the key to the mystery is within the bank itself.

KUROPATKIN'S LAST ORDER

Russian Defeats Were Due to Bureaucratic Rule.

Gen. Kuropatkin's last order of the day to the first Manchurian army, printed in the Russky Invalid (the military organ) shows that the Russian defeats in the war with Japan were due to lack of preparation and equipment, and to the fact that there were no explosive shells for the mountain artillery, etc., in the early stages of the war. He does not shift his own responsibility as minister of war before the war broke out, but points out that the causes of the defeat were deeper, namely, the morale of the troops and of the officers who did not display initiative, independence or enthusiasm in spite of the iron nerves and heroic spirits of the soldiers.

All this, the general boldly announces, is attributable to the oppression of bureaucratic rule during the last 50 years, which in the case of the officers drove men of independence from the service, leaving only worthless drones. He congratulated the troops on the advent of liberty and hope for the regeneration of the people.

Rockefeller Sends Whole Dollar.

John D. Rockefeller celebrated the birth of his grandson, born to Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., by donating \$1 to St. James hospital, a struggling institution at Lakewood. The contribution was received in the form of a check by the Sisters of St. Joseph, who are endeavoring to maintain a free institution. In the same mail that brought Mr. Rockefeller's check there came another for from Mrs. Marshall Field, Jr., for 100 times the amount of the Rockefeller donation.

Two-Cent Fare Defeated.

The Iowa House Committee on Railroads and Commerce voted to kill the Sankey two-cent rate bill. The bill provides for a maximum fare on all railroads in the State and is similar to the bill recently passed by the Ohio Legislature.

Will Sell to B. & O.

President Oscar Murray of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, submitted to the board of public works a formal offer of \$2,500,000 for the State's interest in the Washington branch of that road. The board will accept the offer and will recommend to the Legislature the adoption at once of certain legislation necessary to complete the sale.

Robbers Make Big haul.

Porch climbers got away with jewelry valued at \$10,750, from the home of Mrs. E. L. Ford, 1129 Woodward avenue, Detroit, Mich. The robbers entered the home by climbing the front porch while the household was at dinner. Included among the valuables stolen were a \$5,000 pearl necklace.

Farmer Finds Savings of Years.

William Shuman, a farmer near Shamokin, Pa., was breaking up his household when he found a roll of bills amounting to \$6,000 hidden by his wife in her bedroom some time ago. She died recently before she was able to tell him about her hoard, the accumulation of 25 years.

Congressman Patterson Dead.

The death from heart disease, of George Robert Patterson, Representative from the Twelfth district of Pennsylvania, Schuylkill county, leaves two vacancies in the delegation from the Keystone Commonwealth, the other vacancy being in the Philadelphia district, represented by the late George A. Castor. It is probable that both vacancies will be permitted to continue until the regular election next November.

MEAT PACKERS DISCHARGED

Individuals Cannot Be Held But Corporations Must Answer.

IMMUNITY PLEAS ARE ALLOWED

Judge Says Mr. Garfield Made Advances and Impressed Packers With Powers of His Office.

All the meat packers who were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury last summer on charges of conspiracy in restraint of interstate trade and commerce were granted immunity from criminal prosecution under the indictment. While the individuals are to go free, the indictments found against the corporations, of which some of the indicted packers are members and others are employees, are to stand.

A decision to this effect was handed down by Judge J. Otis Humphrey, in the United States District court, at Chicago. The arguments in the case were concluded and Judge Humphrey at once commenced the delivery of his oral opinion. He reviewed the case at length in all its bearings, cited all the essential facts which had been brought out, and concluded as follows:

"Under the law in this case the immunity pleas filed by the defendants will be sustained as to the individuals and denied to the corporations, and the jury will find in favor of the government as far as the corporations are concerned and against the government as far as the individuals are concerned."

Speaking of Mr. Garfield's connection with the case Judge said: "It is contended that the defendants in this case were volunteers because they haggled with Garfield at times, debated, resisted, gave less than he asked and withheld some things. The record does show that, but the fact remains that every approach was made by the government. Garfield made his demands, and it does not, to my mind, destroy the character of the compulsion under which they acted, that the defendants, after they had considered the law, and after having decided that they had no legal right to resist, still debated with the commissioner in the hope of inducing him to take something less than he originally demanded."

"Garfield came to the defendants and held up before them the powers of his office. They did not go to him and volunteer anything. Now, since the defendants volunteered nothing, but gave only what was demanded by an officer who had the right to make the demand, and gave in good faith under a sense of legal compulsion, I am of the opinion that they were entitled to immunity."

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Mr. Culberson's resolution calling upon the War Department for further information relative to the Mount Dajo battle was adopted without discussion by the Senate.

The Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee of the House has decided to report an omnibus fish hatchery bill providing for about 12 hatcheries in various parts of the country. Another hatchery will be provided for Ohio and one for West Virginia.

Charles H. Moyer, William D. Hayward and George A. Pettibone, charged with the murder of former Gov. Frank Steiensen, of Idaho, pleaded not guilty when arraigned before District Judge Frank Smith at Caldwell.

George P. Brock, formerly cashier of the Doylestown (Pa.) National Bank, who is on trial charged with embezzlement and misapplication of funds, denied all allegations and said the transactions by which he secured over \$80,000 of the funds of the bank were purely of a business nature.

The special business men's grand jury indicted five of the largest ice companies doing business in Toledo, O. They are charged with entering into a combination to advance prices. Indictments also were returned against corporations in the bridge trust.

The Senate passed a bill consolidating the steamboat inspectors' districts at Wheeling, W. Va., and Galipolis, O.

The House Committee on Industrial Arts and Expositions decided to recommend an appropriation of \$1,489,000 for the Jamestown Exposition. Of this sum \$250,000 is a direct appropriation.

Silas L. Snodgrass, Secretary and Treasurer of the Morrison & Snodgrass Company, of Cincinnati, O., is charged with converting to his own use \$1,102 belonging to the company. The charge is made in an attachment suit.

At Coudersport, Pa., school boys hanged Edward Bentley to the bell rope of the school house in imitation of the recent hanging of Charles Brewster at that place. The youth was unconscious when discovered and a physician said he barely escaped death.

Roosevelt Family Going on Cruise.

Mrs. Roosevelt, accompanied by her sons, Archie and Quentin and her daughter, Miss Ethel, and possibly by her son Kermit, will leave Washington for Florida. At some convenient port there, possibly Fernandina, they will board the President's yacht Mayflower and make a cruise to the West Indies. They will visit Cuba and Porto Rico, stopping at both Havana and San Juan. It is expected the party will be absent 10 days or two weeks.

EARTHQUAKE SHAKES ISLAND

Aid Sent to Keepers of Peal Institution Who Are Attacked During Awful Panic.

A cable message from Palermo, March 21 says: There have been 21 earthquake shocks on the island of Ustica during the last three days. A great valley has been formed in the center of the island and all the houses have been demolished. The last shocks, which occurred this afternoon, finished the work of destruction. Panic seized upon the 2,000 inhabitants of the island, who camped in the fields and public squares. Many took refuge in boats in the harbor.

The island is used as a penal settlement for criminals of whom there are 600 quartered there. They attempted to escape, but were subdued.

One of the three mountains on the island is reported by the submarine cable to be in eruption. The government sent the cruiser Varese to subdue the revolt of the prisoners and aid the sufferers. She was followed by the cruiser Eurydice, with a scientific commission aboard to study the seismic phenomena. The steamship Egadi was sent with soldiers, doctors, a detachment of the Red Cross nurses and litters, as greater disasters are feared.

Ustica is an island of 2,000 inhabitants in the province of Palermo, 60 miles northwest of this city.

CURRENT NEWS EVENTS.

The appointment of Reginald T. Tower as British minister to Mexico in succession to Sir George Greville was announced.

Final figures show that, in addition to the regular troops, 1,012,209 army reserve men were mobilized in Russia during the recent year.

A. B. Colvin, judge of police court at Youngstown, O., has had his term of office increased one year by the Ohio Legislature at a salary of \$1,500.

Two Italians were killed and an Hungarian was fatally injured by a fall of slate in a new slope of the H. C. Frick Coke Company at the Kyle works near Uniontown, Pa.

Thompson Thomas, 65 years old, fell from a stepladder at Martins Ferry, O., alighting on his head and dying from his injuries. He is survived by his wife and four children.

The Mutual Life Insurance Company field complaint against former President McCurdy, by which it endeavors to recover millions of dollars.

News comes from Paris that William Rockefeller is in good health and laughing at reports published in this country, representing him to be suffering from incurable disease.

Debate in the senate on rate legislation proved there is small margin of difference between Democrats and Senator Knox.

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